

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 /125 W

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R 041817 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4146

INFO CINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, UY

SUBJ: GOU DENIES WAGE INCREASE BEING CONSIDERED

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 985

1. IN LAST FEW DAYS COMMUNIST PRESS HAS BEEN PUBLICIZING INTENTION OF THE CNT CONFEDERATION TO SEEK AN IMMEDIATE WAGE INCREASE, PROBABLY 30 PERCENT. CNT METAL WORKERS FEDERATION (UNTMRA) HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED DECISION SEEK 30 PER CENT INCREASE. RISE IN COST OF LIVING IN JANUARY OF 22 PERCENT IS PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT FOR INCREASE WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS AN " ADVANCE" ON WAGE ADJUSTMENT EXPECTED IN JULY.

2. PRESIDENT' S PRESS OFFICE APRIL 3 ISSUED FLAT DENIAL THAT ANY WAGE INCREASE WAS BEING CONSIDERED OR STUDIED. FEBRUARY AND MARCH INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING WERE VERY SMALL, ACCORDING

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, AND INCREASE IN JANUARY SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED IN CALCULATING 35 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE EFFECTIVE
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JANUARY 1. CNT'S REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN TO POSTPONE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WAGE DEMANDS PENDING FURTHER STUDY AND CONTACT WITH INDEPENDENT PORT WORKERS UNION (USOP).

3. COMMENT: DECISION BY ADMINISTRATION TO RESIST WAGE INCREASE UNTIL MID- YEAR MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE BUT COULD GIVE RISE TO SERIES OF GENERAL STRIKES. IN SUCH AN EVENT, ARMED SERVICES MIGHT DECIDE TO INTERVENE, THUS FURTHER STRAINING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST PART- CNT AND THE MILITARY (REFTEL. RORTIZ

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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